

Good News from Parks and Recreation

April 2012 Parks Commission Meeting

Parks and Recreation has moved into their offices at City Hall – on the Ground Floor near the elevators. We are planning an open house as soon as our furniture arrives and we get settled in. Our phone numbers and email addresses will remain the same; however, we no longer have a fax. Our mailing address will be: Parks and Recreation, City Hall – Ground Floor, 411 West First St, Duluth, MN 55802.

Parks and Recreation website: <http://www.duluthmn.gov/parks/index.cfm>

Parks Fund Information is now on our website and will be updated on a regular basis. The new website introduction is:

'Parks Fund' breathes new life into city parks and trails Parks and Recreation is very excited to have the opportunity to do the maintenance and projects that we know have been needed for many years in our parks and trails. With the Parks Fund, we can all help make our park spaces better for people of all ages and abilities. Despite dedicated employees, increased utilization of volunteers and work programs, our parks have never reached their potential. Duluth is blessed with almost 12,000 acres of park spaces that need care and attention and we just haven't been able to reach that goal. To bring our park system up to a basic level of maintenance, it will take some time to catch-up. We have momentum now. With committed non-profit organizations, devoted volunteers, dedicated staff, and the Parks Fund – we can make a difference!

Trail and Bikeway Plan - http://www.duluthmn.gov/parks/trail_bikeway_master_plan.cfm

Parks and Recreation Master Plan - http://www.duluthmn.gov/parks/master_plan.cfm

DNR 10/25 Parks and Trails Legacy Plan - <http://www.legacy.leg.mn/funds/parks-trails-fund/plan>

Sign up for all **Parks and Recreation press releases** and other City announcements at <http://www.duluthmn.gov/> - click the yellow button on the left that says "Subscribe via E-mail".

Like us on Facebook: see the blue facebook icon on our website: <http://www.duluthmn.gov/parks/> or find us on Facebook at DuluthParksMN

2012 Zoo Events

May 13	Mothers' Day & Teddy Bear Clinic
May 15/June 15	Membership Drive
June 7	M.A.D. Safari (Member Appreciation Day)
June 17	Wild About Dad (Fathers' Day)
August 2	Spirit Valley Days Parade
August 4	Run Like an Animal (run/walk)
August 16	Wine Tasting Event
September 9	Lion's Birthday & Grandparents' Day
October 13 & 20	Boo at the Zoo
December 8	Berlin's Birthday & Photos with Santa

Global Youth Service Day's Twin Ports Watershed Clean-Up

We kicked off the City of Duluth's Clean & Green Week, on Friday, April 20 by cleaning up our watersheds and educating the community on the collective impact of litter and pollution in our waterways. Duluth Public and Private Schools partnered with the City in this daylong event by participating in the clean-up efforts at streams and parks located near their school.

17th Annual Clean and Green Community-Wide Clean-Up: April 21-May 5th

We invite community members and organizations to join us during these weeks of community pride. Our goal is to have hundreds of citizens working together in our parks, neighborhoods, business districts and along the waterfront, so that by the end of the two weeks our City will be spruced up for another summer season. Please let us know if your group will join in on these efforts. Call Parks and Recreation at 730-4312 or email anorris@duluthmn.gov if you are interested in participating. Garbage bags are available to registered groups.

Working on a Community Invasion: Parks and Recreation/Hartley Nature Center Partnership Event

It's everywhere in Duluth - you've probably seen this invader in your neighborhood or maybe even in your back yard. Blending in well with many native plants, it can be tall, green, and quite healthy well into the fall. Despite its "good" looks, the invasive, non-native buckthorn can be devastating to native plants, trees, and wildlife habitat. To combat this invader, Hartley Nature Center is holding two community Buckthorn Workshops to inform residents about this plant and how to control it.

The free public sessions will be held on Saturday, April 28 from 10-11:30am and on Wednesday, May 9 from 6:30-8pm.

As they do each year, Hartley Nature Center (HNC) and the City of Duluth Parks and Recreation Division have recruited volunteers to slow down this invasion in Hartley Park and other areas around Duluth. Additionally this past year, Hartley Nature Center has secured a grant from the Minnesota Power Foundation to fund an educational and restoration demonstration project. The project will focus on a four acre section of Hartley Park that has been created as an educational area of native plantings and restoration. Buckthorn was removed last fall and now the center is gearing up to replant the treated area this spring.

Community members are invited to Hartley Nature Center to learn about buckthorn control methods they can use in their yards and neighborhoods. They can also walk through the demonstration area to see first-hand the impact of buckthorn and can return to the same area to look at the results of future restoration efforts. Informational links on buckthorn can be found on Hartley's website at www.hartleynature.org. For more information on the demonstration project, contact Brett Amundson at HNC at 724-6735 or e-mail bamundson@hartleynature.org or Judy Gibbs, Parks and Recreation, at jgibbs@duluthmn.gov

Ice Skating at the Heritage Sports Center (120 South 30th Ave West). All skating sessions are free.

Wednesday-April 25	6:30-8:00 PM
Wednesday-May 2	6:30-8:00 PM
Wednesday-May 9	6:30-8:00 PM
Wednesday-May 16	6:30-8:00 PM
Wednesday-May 23	6:30-8:00 PM
Wednesday-May 30	6:30-8:00 PM
Wednesday-June 6	6:30-8:00 PM
Friday-June 8	Noon-4:00 PM

Special School's Out Skate

New Heritage Sports Center Spring "Rink Rat" Hockey Program Launched

The City of Duluth, DAHA, and the Duluth Heritage Sports Center will be offering a spring "Rink Rat" Hockey program for children ages 6 – 11. This opportunity will be designed to give those interested in trying out the sport of hockey a chance to do so in a non-competitive, indoor environment with experienced adult interaction and supervision. Each one hour session will include games and fun drills, followed by an informal game where participants will be equally rotated in for playing time. Sessions are FREE but are limited to 30 participants. Some equipment may be available for use but participants must be able to provide (or borrow) their own Helmets, Elbow/Knee pads and Stick. Space can be reserved and more information requested by calling 730-4388.

Saturday 9:30 - 10:30 am April 28
Wednesdays 4:00 - 5:00 pm May 2, 9,
Saturday 12:45 - 1:45 pm May 12
Wednesdays 4:00 - 5:00 pm May 16, 19, 23
Saturdays 9:30 - 10:30 am May 26
Fridays 6:30 - 7:30 pm June 8, 15, 22, 29

Spring Ultimate Frisbee at Heritage Sports Center

Kids will learn how to play the game of Ultimate Frisbee! It's a fun, fast moving game similar to football, played with a frisbee but with very little physical contact. Show up for direction, skill practice, and pick-up games with well-seasoned players.

Dates: Wednesdays, April 18 - May 23

Time: 7:00-8:00 pm

Ages: 7-17

Cost: Free

Spring Turf Time at Heritage Sports Center

UMD Athletes, Parks Staff, and Men as Peacemakers will assist Youth Groups and their adult leaders in character development activities and sports-oriented games on the indoor Turf Facility. A variety of equipment, participants, and discussion topics make this a fun and interesting opportunity for all involved who desire active play with NO weather worries! Snack provided!

Dates: April 26 - May 31

Time: Thursdays, 4:30-6:30 PM

Ages: 7-17, with adult group leader or care-giver

Cost: Free

New to be offered this summer: Art Kits and Recreational Equipment Lending Program out of Duluth Heights Community Recreation Center. More information will be available in May or contact 730-4388 or ppage@duluthmn.gov.

About thirty volunteers came out to rehabilitate the Miller Creek Disc Golf Course on Saturday, April 14. The course, originally an 18-hole course, had been shut down due to erosion and compaction issues. The newly designed 9-hole course reopened following the volunteer labor efforts. For more information about upcoming work dates, contact David Markman at 320-339-0305.

Re-Leaf Duluth! The City of Duluth is looking for volunteers to help with its tree inventory! No experience is needed. Training and materials provided. Training sessions:

Emerald Ash Borer/Gypsy Moth trainings on Tuesday, May 1, 6:30-8 pm at Portman Community Center and Wednesday, May 2, 6:30-8 pm at Evergreen Senior Center (City Center West)

Tree ID and Condition Rating Trainings on Saturday, May 19, 9:30-11 am at Grant Community Center, Sunday, May 20, 1-3 pm at Evergreen Senior Center (City Center West), and Tuesday, May 22, 6:30-8 pm at Portman Community Center.

More dates to be added. For more information, contact Shawna MullenEardley at 763-300-2982.

Duluth celebrates Arbor Day! This year's celebration marks the 23rd year of Duluth being a Tree City USA! Help mark the day on May 17, 10:30 am at Chambers Grove Park. We'll be planting trees and unveiling the new street signs designating Duluth as a member of the Tree City USA program after a hiatus of six years!

Friends of the Lakewalk is hosting its annual meeting on Sunday, May 20 from 4-7 pm at the Bayfront Family Center in Bayfront Festival Park. Food and Drink provided! Come on down and learn what they are up to! More info: Jennifer Boyle jennifer.r.boyle@gmail.com.

2012 Movies in the Park Schedule at Leif Erikson Park

July 13	Captain America: The First Avenger	124 min PG-13	Starts 9:01 PM
July 20	The Sandlot	100 min PG	Starts 8:55 PM
July 2	Fletch	96 min PG	Starts 8:47 PM
August 3	Top Gun	110 min PG	Starts 8:38 PM
August 10	Dolphin Tale	119 min PG-13	Starts 8:28 PM
August 17	Star Trek II: Wrath of Khan	113 min PG	Starts 8:16 PM
August 24	Harry Potter - Order of the Phoenix	138 min PG-13	Starts 8:04 PM
August 31	Labor Day Weekend – no movie		
September 7	Happy Feet	87min PG	Starts 7:37 PM

The City of Duluth Parks and Recreation has one of the most extensive park systems in the country. The City owns and maintains 11,862 acres including the following special areas:

- 129 municipal parks, playgrounds and public places
- Neighborhood community recreation centers
- Bayfront Festival Park
- Lake Superior Zoo
- 2 golf courses, each offering 27 holes
- Keene's Creek Dog Park
- Disc golf courses
- Skatepark at Wheeler Field Athletic Complex
- Wade Municipal Stadium
- Wheeler Field Athletic Complex
- Hartley Nature Center
- Hawk Ridge Nature Reserve
- Year round ice skating at the Duluth Heritage Sports Center
- Swimming at Park Point Beach
- Over 40 miles of mountain biking trails
- 55 miles of hiking trails
- Over 7 miles of the Duluth Lakewalk along the shores of Lake Superior
- 45 miles of snowmobile trails
- 70 kilometers of groomed cross-country ski trails
- 13 beautiful self-guided hiking trails

Currently, Duluth has 160 miles of trails within the city limits, including 40 miles of the national North Country Trail/Superior Hiking Trail, a hiking trail spanning the backbone of our 26-mile long city, connecting all of its neighborhoods. Duluth's trail system is incredibly diverse from cascading waterfalls in the gorge of Congdon Park, towering sand dunes on Park Point and waterfowl-filled habitats of the St. Louis River along the Western Waterfront Trail. Trails range from accessible to rugged. There is something for everyone here in Duluth.